



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0012968.4
Claims searched: All

Examiner: Matthew J. Tosh
Date of search: 3 August 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): F2A (AD38, AD44)

Int Cl (Ed.7): F16C 9/00, 9/02, 17/00, 17/02, 33/02, 33/04, 33/06, 33/12

Other: ONLINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, ALLOYS

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Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| AA | A GB 2321468 A (DAIDO METAL). Note overlay % silver content in Table 1. | |
| AC | X GB 597113 (BRADBURY). See whole specification. | 1,2 |
| AB | X JP 10330871 (TOYOTA). See abstract. | 1,2 |

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



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Your ref: NIS/DC/33438
Application No: GB 0012968.4
Applicant: Daido Metal Company Ltd.

Examiner: Matthew J. Tosh
Tel: 01633 814693
Date of report: 4 August 2000

Latest date for reply: 6 June 2001

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Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Novelty (Section 1(1)(a))

1. The invention as defined in claims 1 and 2 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following document:

JP 10330871 (TOYOTA)

2. TOYOTA discloses a plain bearing bush comprising a metal backing layer, a copper-tin alloy layer and a tin-based lead-free overlay. Said overlay can contain between 0.05% and 5.0% silver and is therefore considered to anticipate claims 1 and 2.

Inventive step (Section 1(1)(b))

3. The invention as defined in claims 1 and 2 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following document:

GB 597113 (BRADBURY)

4. The above cited document discloses a lead-free bearing alloy which may be used for a bearing surface. A bearing alloy of aluminium and tin base may contain up to 10% silver and, in addition, copper, nickel and/or zinc. Using this surface material as an overlay for a plain bearing as set forth in claims 1 and 2 is not considered to be inventive.

Clarity and Support (Sections 14(5)(b) and 14(5)(c))

5. Line 21 of page 3 lists alloying metals as Cu, Sb, Zn, Ni *and so on*. It should be made clear that "*and so on*" does not include lead as this would fall outside the scope of the claims.